

ORSON SCOTT CARD

ENDER'S GAME™

CHRISTOPHER YOST

PASQUAL FERRY

FRANK D'ARMATA



BATTLE SCHOOL

ACTUAL
ENDER'S
GAME

ORSON SCOTT CARD ENDER'S GAME

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INTERNATIONAL FLEET PSYCHOLOGICAL REPORT #0026584
SUBJECT: WIGGIN, ANDREW "ENDER"
FILED BY: COLONEL HYRUM GRAFF
CROSS REFERENCE: WIGGIN, PETER and WIGGIN, VALENTINE

After the second invasion by the alien FORMICS, International Fleet began the BATTLE SCHOOL initiative to find and train the greatest minds humanity had to offer, preparing them to lead the International Fleet in a potential THIRD INVASION.

Training begins at SIX YEARS OLD.

I.F. had chosen PETER WIGGIN for monitoring some years ago, implanting a MONITOR CHIP in him. Peter was too aggressive, but showed considerable promise. We requisitioned a second child from the Wiggins, a girl, hoping to weed out excessive aggression. VALENTINE was equally promising, but was too noncompetitive. And while population laws forbade a another child, I.F. exempted the Wiggins for a THIRD... Ender.

We monitored Ender the longest of the three children, and saw how he was influenced equally by Peter AND Valentine. Peter tormented Ender viciously throughout his life, and Valentine was Ender's only support. Concerns arose that Ender subjugated his will to BOTH of them, that he was too malleable.

I disagreed. So we gave Ender a final test... and took out his monitor. He was immediately attacked by a school bully, and Ender dealt with the student with... finality. Upon direct questioning, Ender revealed that his brutality against the student was a tactical decision, and not cruelty for the sake of cruelty.

I invited Ender to Battle School. And now I pray that he's strong enough to survive it. For all our sakes.

"WITH ENDS, WE HAVE TO STRIKE A DELICATE BALANCE. ISOLATE HIM ENOUGH THAT HE REMAINS CREATIVE. OTHERWISE WE'LL ADOPT THE SYSTEM HERE AND WE'LL LOSE HIM."

"SO YOU'RE GOING TO ISOLATE HIM."

OVER HERE!

LOOK HERE!!

"I'LL HAVE HIM COMPLETELY SEPARATED FROM THE REST OF THE BOYS BY THE TIME WE GET TO THE SCHOOL."

HOW ARE YOU FEELING?

DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING YOU WANT TO TELL THE PEOPLE?

HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE A HERO?

"I HAVE NO DOUBT OF IT. I WATCHED THE VIDEO OF WHAT WE DID TO THE STEELBOY BOY. THIS IS NOT A SWEET LITTLE KID YOU'RE BRINGING TO BATTLE SCHOOL, GRAFF."

THAT'S WHERE YOU'RE MISTAKEN. HE'S EVEN SWEETER THAN HE LOOKS. BUT DON'T WORRY. WE'LL PURGE THAT IN A HURRY.

"...IT MAKES THEM BETTER."

SOMETIMES I THINK YOU ENJOY BREAKING THESE LITTLE GENIUSES

ENOUGH? MAYBE, BECAUSE WHEN WE PUT THE PIECES OF THESE CHILDREN BACK TOGETHER...









WELL WHY (GWT
IT? SOUMBRAINS,
THAT'S WHAT
WE'VE GOT IN
THIS LAUNCH.

ONLY ONE OF
YOU HAD THE BRAINS
TO REALIZE THAT IN
NULL GRAVITY
PREDICTIONS ARE WHAT
YOU CONCEIVE THEM
TO BE.



THERE'S ONLY
ONE BOY ON THIS
LAUNCH WITH ANY
BRAINS AT ALL, AND
THAT'S ENDER
WIGGIN.

TAKE A GOOD LOOK
AT HIM, LITTLE BOYS.
HE'S GOING TO BE A
COMMANDER WHEN
YOU'RE STILL IN DIAPERS
UP THERE, BECAUSE HE
KNOWS HOW TO THINK IN
NULL GRAVITY, AND YOU
JUST WANT TO
THROW UP.

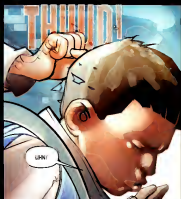


MOST OF YOU AREN'T
WORTH THE PRICE OF
BRINGING YOU UP HERE
TO BATTLE SCHOOL.
SOME OF YOU MIGHT
MAKE IT. SOME OF
YOU MIGHT BE WORTH
SOMETHING
TO HUMANITY.

BUT
DON'T BET
ON IT.



I'M ONLY
BETTING
ON ONE.







RY
ARM...

WHAT ARE
YOU, SLOW
LEARNERS?



IN YOUR FEEBLE
LITTLE MINDS
HAVEN'T YOU PICKED
UP ON ONE LITTLE
FACT?

LEFT ARM,
BROKEN.



YOU WERE BROUGHT
HERE TO BE SOLDIERS.
IN YOUR OLD SCHOOLS,
MAYBE YOU WERE THE BIG
SHOT. MAYBE YOU WERE THE
TOUGHEST OR SHARTEST.

BUT WE CHOSE
THE BEST OF THE BEST
AND THAT'S THE ONLY
KIND OF KID YOU'RE
GOING TO MEET NOW.



AND WHEN I TELL
YOU ENTER WIGGIN
IS THE BEST IN THIS
LAUNCH, TAKE THE
HINT, MY LITTLE
DORKINGS.

DON'T MESS
WITH HIM.



LITTLE BOYS
HAVE PEEP IN
BATTLE SCHOOL
BEFORE. DO
I MAKE MYSELF
CLEAR?





I THOUGHT
YOU WERE
MY FRIEND.

WHATEVER
GAVE YOU
THAT IDEA?

BECAUSE
YOU--

YOU
DIDN'T
LIE.



I WON'T LIE NOW,
EITHER. MY JOB ISN'T
TO BE FRIENDS. MY JOB
IS TO PRODUCE THE
BEST SOLDIERS IN THE
WORLD. IN THE WHOLE
HISTORY OF THE
WORLD.

MY JOB
IS TO PRODUCE
A NAPOLEON. AN
ALEXANDER. A
JULIUS CAESAR
AND ALL THE MEN
AND WOMEN WE'LL
NEED TO HELP
HIM.

NOWHERE DOES
IT SAY I HAVE TO
MAKE FRIENDS
WITH CHILDREN.

YOU MADE
THEM HATE
ME.

SO? WHAT WILL
YOU DO ABOUT IT?
CRAWL INTO A CORNER
AND HIDE? KISS THEIR
BACKSIDES SO THEY'LL
LOVE YOU AGAIN?

THERE'S ONLY
ONE THING THAT WILL
MAKE THEM STOP
HATING YOU, ENEMY. I
TOLD THEM YOU WERE
THE BEST. NOW YOU
DAMN WELL BETTER BE.



OH, AND BY
THE WAY, ENEMY?
YOU AREN'T HELPING
YOURSELF WITH THE
OTHER BOYS. TALKING
TO ME HERE. IF WORD
GETS AROUND THAT
YOU'RE SUCKING UP
TO ME, YOU'RE DEAD
FOR SURE.



IS
THAT THE
ONE?

WHO KNOWS? BUT
THE KIP WAS RIGHT.
ANYWAY. I AM HIS
FRIEND. HE'S CLEAN.
RIGHT TO THE HEART.
HE'S GOOD.

AND FOR
HIS SAKE...

"...I HOPE IT
ISN'T HIM."

SHAM!



...WIGGIN...

...ENDER
WIGGIN...

...BROKE
BERNARD'S ARM.
NEARLY KILLED
HIM...

PLACE YOUR HAND
ON THE SCANNER.

HEY, THANKS
EVERYBODY! I
THOUGHT I WAS
GOING TO HAVE
TO ASK FOR THE
LOW BUNK BY
THE DOOR.

SPEAK YOUR
NAME TWICE.

ENDER WIGGIN.
I.D. ACCEPTED.

ENDER
WIGGIN.
ENDER
WIGGIN.

WELCOME TO
BATTLE SCHOOL.





THIS
IS THE GAME
ROOM.

LAUNCHES START
WITH THE 2-D GAMES.
YOU'LL FIND VID SCREENS
HERE. YOU MAY HAVE
PLAYED SIMILAR GAMES
AT HOME.



AS YOU PROGRESS,
YOU'LL MOVE UP TO THE
HOLOGRAPHIC GAMES.
WATCH YOURSELVES...THE
BIGGER KIDS DON'T LIKE
YOU LAUNCHES BUTTING
IN. YOU MIGHT GET
PUSHED AROUND.

IN FACT, YOU
WILL GET PUSHED
AROUND. AND WHEN
YOU DO, DON'T COME
CRYING TO ME.
GOT IT?

THIS IS
BATTLE SCHOOL.
NOT NURSERY
SCHOOL.

I'D LIKE A
TURN AGAINST
YOU.

KJISO,
WHAT IS
THIS?

A NEW
FLOCK OF
DYAVES JUST
CAME ABOARD.
DIDN'T KNOW THEY
COULD TALK,
THOUGH.

I SEE. YOU'RE
AFRAID TO
PLAY ME TWO
OUT OF THREE.

LISTEN UP,
SCRUNCHFACE.
YOU'RE NOBODY.
GOT THAT?
YOU'RE NOT
ANYBODY TIL
YOU'VE GOT
YOUR FIRST KILL.

IF I'M
NOBODY, THEN
HOW COME YOU'RE
SCARED TO PLAY
ME TWO OUT OF
THREE?

KILL THE
SQUIRT QUICK
AND LET'S GET
ON WITH IT.





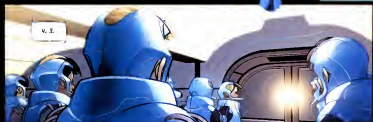
HEADED	W-L
1 Gutsunder	8-3
2 Rat	7-3
3 Phoenix	3-4
4 Leopard	1-3
5 Canard	3-3
6 Flame	1-4
7 Rabbit	6-3
8 Bee	5-6
9 Lion	3-1
10 Hawk	4-1

NOW ENTERING BATTLE: MANTICORE AND ASP.









2. 3.

BATTLE ROOM IS
NOW ENGAGED.

WELL, GRAVITY
IS EFFECT.

THIS IS CRAZY!
WHAT DO THEY
EXPECT US TO--

--BUPER??!





WHAT ARE
YOU TRYING
TO DO, KILL
YOURSELF?

YOU'RE
GONNA HIT
THE WALL!!



NOT A
WALL.

A
FLOOR.



I'M NOT
FLYING. I'M
FALLING.

THIS IS
A DIVE.

TRY IT
WHEN THE BUT
KEEPS YOU FROM
HURTING
YOURSELF!



HUP!

TAAA!

ALAI
ALAI
WATT!

WAAAAHHH!

WHOO-
HOOO!!

ummm

ZT





MY THOUGHTS
EXACTLY. ONLY
EVERYBODY'S
TURNING TO BUTTER
OUT THERE.

I SAW YOU
CHECKING OUT THE
WEAPON. WHAT
HAPPENED WHEN YOU
FIRE IT AT A
PERSON?

I DON'T
KNOW.

WHY
DON'T WE
FIND OUT?

WE
WIGHT HURT
SOMEBODY.

YOU'RE PART
OF BERNARD'S
GANG, AREN'T YOU?

I MEANT WHY
DON'T WE SHOOT
EACH OTHER IN
THE FOOT OR
SOMETHING.

I'M NOT
BERNARD. ENDEK.
I NEVER TORTURED
CATS FOR FUN.

ALRIGHT
THEN. WE'VE
GOT SOME
WORK TO DO.

NEXT:
THE GIANT'S DRINK.

NEXT ISSUE:





Andrew "Ender" Wiggin may be the best hope of all of humanity. The alien Formics twice attacked Earth with devastating power. We barely fought them off. Now the International Fleet has drafted the best and brightest of Earth's children to train them to command our defense against the coming third invasion. The adult teachers believe Ender is something special, so they push him harder than any other student. Will he break under the pressure? Ready or not, Ender may be the only choice...

The world-famous Hugo- and Nebula-winning novel is brought to life in this tale of the one child who can save the world, from the mind of science-fiction master Orson Scott Card.

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